

exists? Absolutely. Do I think we should respond to them and deal with them? ... Absolutely.

"We are pro animal, but, not that they're not worth our response — they are — but you weigh the balance of, do we put our efforts toward the war on drugs or the less dominate cock/dog fighting?" Murray continued. "Not to say that it's not going on and not serious because it is, but we get a lot fewer complaints in regard to those things."

And when an economy receives the positive benefits that Jeffersonville did from its arena, complaints are going to be few and far between, if any are received at all.

In July 2010, KSP investigators carried out a large scale operation plan on a cockfighting operation in Edmonson County, citing 93 individuals, after officers witnessed cockfighting at past events in the location. However, en route to the property on which the event was taking place, the numerous units passed a country store several miles from the location, Hopson said. Someone from the store placed a call to the cockfighting establishment warning the owner and participants that law enforcement was on the way, allowing many spectators to get up and run, he said.

"Often they have community support for what they're doing," Hopson said.

"It is an underground network and ... the other side of this is the victims in these crimes are the animals," Murray said. "To the people that go to them and enjoy it, they don't see it that way. We don't have a lot of complaints because it's voluntary. I'm not advocating it, but we're not going to get a lot of complaints for dog/cock fighting because to the people who attend those events, that's their thing. If everything is consensual, for lack of better terms — people there gambling, drinking and having a good time — they go on about their business."

It is these other events that take place at cockfights that generally make busting cockfighting operations easier and more substantial for law enforcement.

"When people are fighting cocks, there's more at stake than just fighting a couple of chickens; there's a reason they do that, and it's money," Hopson said. "Not because they are getting money to fight chickens, but because there is heavy betting going on. Behind the scenes ... you have organized crime going on for the purposes of receiving money for gambling proceeds."



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"So it may not seem that big a deal that [someone's] going to pay \$5 to watch a couple of chickens fight," he continued. "But when you find out [he is] waging \$1,000 per fight and may walk out with \$10,000 to \$15,000, it starts to become a little bit more imperative. When we get to talking about big money, that's when we get major drug things going on, people getting >>

▲ With more than 300 dogs logged into the new shelter in just two years, Robertson County's new shelter has given dogs like these the ability to be adopted into caring homes.